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" (b) Since 6th October 1953.

" (c) The Collector of Malabar has addressed the Registrar of Co-operative Societies to take over the society. The Registrar will take charge of the society as soon as the arrears due from the society to the Government and the amount due to the society from the Government are adjusted."

" (d) The delay is due to the correspondence that has to be carried on between the Collector, the subordinate officers and the Board before the accounts could be settled.

" (e) No, Sir.

" (f) The criminal case against the ex-secretary of the society is pending with the Additional First-class Magistrate, Tellicherry. The arbitration reference against the ex-secretary is pending with the District Supply Officer. It could not be taken up as the connected records are filed in the Court of the Additional First-class Magistrate, Tellicherry."

Sri K. MADHAVAN NAMBIAR :—" What is the amount due to the society from the Government? Why have the Government delayed payment for such a long time? Are the Government aware that the society has experienced great financial hardship due to the delay in payment? "

Mr. SPEAKER :—" I wish to know from the Hon. Minister whether the matter is before a court."

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" Yes, Sir. A criminal case against the secretary is pending in the court."

Mr. SPEAKER :—" Then I pass on to the next question."

Detection of Prohibition cases by the Police and Prohibition departments.

604 Q.—Sri A. RATNAM (on behalf of Sri M. Dharmalingam) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state the number of cases detected by the Police and Prohibition departments in their respective districts during the years 1949–50 and 1952–53?

The Hon. Sri B. PARAMESWARAN :—" A statement [a] showing the number of cases detected under the Prohibition Act during the years 1949–50 and 1952–53 in the Residuary State is placed on the table of the House."

Sri T. ANANTHA PAI :—" The figures given for 1952–53 show that there has been a considerable increase in the detection of Prohibition cases. May I know what is the inference drawn by the Government? Do they consider that detection has improved or crimes have increased? "

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[a] Printed as Appendix on page 374 infra.

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THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" I would leave the hon. Member to draw his own inferences."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" From the statement placed on the table of the House, we find that crimes have increased. Does it not follow that the Prohibition policy of the Government is not liked by the general public of this State? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" That does not necessarily follow."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" We find from the statement placed on the table of the House that in the Police districts, the offences committed are more than in the Prohibition districts. Is it because of the increase in the efficiency in detection or is it on account of the encouragement given to commit offences? "

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—" In view of the various complaints voiced forth on the floor of the House and in view of the information disclosed from the answers furnished, will the Government consider the propriety of appointing a Committee to go into the working of the Prohibition Act? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" No, Sir. I cannot give any such assurance now."

SRI S. DEIVASIGAMANY :—" As the detected cases are so enormous, will the Government fix up the average figure of undetected cases? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" I don't see what useful purpose will be served by that, Sir."

DR. K. B. MENON :—" The figures for the Nilgiris are strikingly low. Does it reflect the goodness of the people or the inefficiency of the officers? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" Goodness of the people, mainly."

SRI V. C. PALANISAMI GOUNDER :—" May I know at what stage the proposed amendment of the Prohibition Act stands now? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" What has that to do with the main question? "

SRI V. C. PALANISAMI GOUNDER :—" My question is relevant, Sir."

MR. SPEAKER :—" How? The main question relates to the number of cases detected by the Police and Prohibition departments. But the hon. Member's supplementary is about the amendment of the Prohibition Act. I now pass on to the next question."